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TITLE: SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF
A RECEIVED RADIO SIGNAL

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CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=O>A delay spread is created in a digital radio signal to reduce the coherence bandwidth and facilitate frequency hopping to reduce the effect of fading losses within an enclosed propagation environment. The delay spread is introduced into the signal in several ways. One technique disclosed employs a transmitter (21) with two separate antennas (26, 27) one of which transmits the digital signal and the other of which transmits the same signal after a phase delay (25) has been introduced into the signal. The carrier frequency of the signals is hopped between at least two frequencies and the receiver processes the resulting signals. In another embodiment, a single transmit antenna (42) is used but the signal is received by two different antennas (43, 44) with the output signal from one of those antennas being phase delayed (45) before combining (46) it with the other prior to processing by the receiver circuitry (47). Phase delay (115) is also introduced at baseband into the signals to be transmitted by rotating the I and Q components of the waveforms before modulation.

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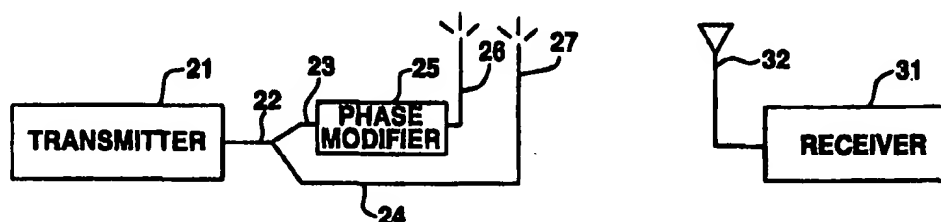
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(57) Abstract

A delay spread is created in a digital radio signal to reduce the coherence bandwidth and facilitate frequency hopping to reduce the effect of fading losses within an enclosed propagation environment. The delay spread is introduced into the signal in several ways. One technique disclosed employs a transmitter (21) with two separate antennas (26, 27) one of which transmits the digital signal and the other of which transmits the same signal after a phase delay (25) has been introduced into the signal. The carrier frequency of the signals is hopped between at least two frequencies and the receiver processes the resulting signals. In another embodiment, a single transmit antenna (42) is used but the signal is received by two different antennas (43, 44) with the output signal from one of those antennas being phase delayed (45) before combining (46) it with the other prior to processing by the receiver circuitry (47). Phase delay (115) is also introduced at baseband into the signals to be transmitted by rotating the I and Q components of the waveforms before modulation.

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SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF
A RECEIVED RADIO SIGNAL

5 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Field of the Invention

 The invention relates to radio systems and, more particularly, to improving the efficiency of frequency hopping as a technique of reducing the effects of fading
10 in an enclosed region of signal propagation.

History of the Related Art

Radio Transmission Problems

 The quality of the signal received by a mobile
15 station from a base station is affected from time to time by natural phenomena inherent in the use of radio signals to communicate. A factor common to most of the problems related to radio reception is that the desired signal at the receiver is too weak, either in comparison to thermal
20 noise or in comparison to an interfering signal. An interfering signal can be characterized as any undesired signal received on the same channel by the receiver as the desired signal.

 In the case of cellular radio systems where all of
25 the frequencies in the available bandwidth are being reused throughout the cellular grid, the efficiency of the radio system is generally limited by the amount of interfering radio signals received rather than thermal noise.

30 One phenomenon which occurs to limit the quality of a received signal within a radio system is path loss. Even when there are no obstacles between the transmitting antenna and a receiving antenna, the received signal

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becomes progressively weaker due to the increasing distance between the base station and the mobile station. The received signal power is inversely proportional to a value somewhere between the square and the fourth power of the distance between the transmitting and receiving antennas.

A more common transmission problem in mobile radio systems used in an environment where there are objects such as buildings present, is that of log-normal fading. This phenomenon occurs as a result of the shadowing effect produced by buildings and natural obstacles such as hills located between the transmitting and receiving antennas of a mobile station and a base station. As the mobile station moves around within the environment, the received signal strength increases and decreases as a function of the type of obstacles which are at that moment between the transmitting and receiving antennas. The term "log-normal," comes from the fact that the logarithm of the received signal strength takes the form of a normal distribution about some mean value the minimum values of which are referred to as fading dips and the distance between which may be on the order of 30 to 60 feet.

A third phenomenon which effects signal strength within a mobile system operated in an urban environment is that of Rayleigh fading. This type of signal degradation occurs when the broadcast signal takes more than one path from the transmitting antenna to the receiving antenna so that the receiving antenna of the mobile station receives not just one signal but several. One of these multiple signals may come directly from the receiving antenna but several others are first reflected from buildings and other obstructions before reaching the receiving antenna and, thus, are delayed slightly in phase from one another. The reception of several versions of same signal shifted in phase from one another results in

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the vector sum of the signals being the resultant composite signal actually received at the receiving antenna. In some cases the vector sum of the receive signal may be very low, even close to zero, resulting in a fading dip wherein the received signal virtually disappears. In the case of a moving mobile station, the time that elapses between two successive fading dips due to Rayleigh fading depends upon both the frequency of the received signal and the speed at which the mobile is moving. The distance between two fading dips due to Rayleigh fading may be on the order of 7 inches for the 900 megahertz radio band.

Referring to FIGS. 1A and 1B, there is illustrated a perspective model of the frequency/distance received signal fading pattern within a typical mobile radio operating environment. FIG. 1A represents the received signal field of a radio signal operating within an urban area at a frequency of 100 megahertz while FIG. 1B represents a radio signal operating in an urban area with a signal frequency of 300 megahertz. It can be seen from these diagrams how the strength of the signals vary, creating periodic fading dips which are both distance and frequency dependent.

In the case of digital radio systems, such as those in which time division multiple access (TDMA) modulation is used, other radio transmission difficulties arise. One of these difficulties, referred to as time dispersion, occurs when a signal representing certain digital information is interfered with at the receiving antenna by a different, consecutively transmitted symbol due to reflections of the original signal from an object far away from the receiving antenna. It thus becomes difficult for the receiver to decide which actual symbol is being detected at the present moment. Another transmission phenomenon inherent in the use of TDMA modulation is due

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to the fact that each mobile station must only transmit during a particular allocated time slot of the TDMA frame and remain silent during the other times. Otherwise, the mobile will interfere with calls from other mobiles to which are assigned in different time slots of the same frame.

Conventional Solutions to Radio Transmission Problems

There have evolved a series of techniques which are used to combat the signal degenerative phenomena which occur in radio transmission systems. One solution which is employed to combat the problems of fading of a digital radio signal, from both log-normal fading and Rayleigh fading, is that of coding and interleaving. This is a technique in which the information representing various items of digital information is organized into blocks, and consecutive ones of a series of blocks, for example, four bits each, are organized into frames. If each of the consecutive bits of information are sent in the same order as they are generated by the speech encoder, the occurrence of a fading dip would totally obliterate several consecutive bits of information which would thus be lost from the communication stream and result in a gap in the speech to be recreated from them. With the technique of interleaving, however, the consecutive bits of information are systematically separated from one another and rearranged in a transmission stream in which they are, rather than contiguous to one another, separated in time from one another with each one forming one bit of a separate block of information. At the other end of the transmission stream the rearranged bits are removed from the blocks of data in which they were transmitted and reconstructed to again be contiguous to one another. When each of these bits representing speech data are separated from the other bits to which they are normally contiguous

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in time and "interleaved" among other bits not normally contiguous to one another in time and then an entire block of bits is lost from the transmission stream during a fading dip, at least some portion of that lost block can
5 be constructed from the bits which were not lost during the dip because they were interleaved into other blocks which were not lost due to fading. In the case of a moving mobile station, a fading dip only occurs for a very brief period of time as the mobile passes through the
10 region of fading and back into an area of good reception.

One technique used to secure a digital radio transmission against interference is that of error correction coding in which the bits of information to be transmitted are encoded with a correction code so that if
15 bits are lost during transmission they can be recreated with a relatively high degree of accuracy at the receiver site by the error correction code circuitry. A part of the procedure used in correction coding of a digital signal transmission stream is that of interleaving.

20 An assumption inherent in the use of interleaving techniques with error correction coding is that the mobile is moving so that it passes through a fading dip relatively quickly and only experiences loss of a relatively small block of the digital information due to
25 attenuation while it is located in the region of the fading dip. In the case of transmission environments which are indoors, for example, in a convention center or office building, a mobile station is relatively slow moving or perhaps even stationary. Thus, if the mobile
30 happens to be in a physical location which is subject to a fading dip, it does not pass through that dip quickly and thus a large amount of information is lost due to the fade. Losses of large blocks of information cannot be corrected by mere interleaving and error correction
35 coding.

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Another technique used to compensate for transmission difficulties in a radio system is that of frequency hopping. In the use of frequency hopping the radio transmission and reception are at one carrier frequency for one instant of time and then a very short time later the transmission and reception is "hopped" to a different frequency. When a transmitted radio signal is at a different carrier frequency, it is not subject to the same fading pattern because such patterns are frequency dependent and thereby different for different frequencies. Thus, a stationary mobile station which may be in the trough of a fading dip at one carrier frequency might get relatively good reception at a different frequency. In this way, frequency hopping is used to further limit the amount of signal loss to a relatively short segment of the actual transmission time span and thus allow the signal processing circuitry to compensate for the loss of broadcast information with interleaving and error correction coding by reconstructing the lost portions of the transmission.

One important aspect of frequency hopping is that the two or more carrier frequencies between which the signal is successively hopped must each be separated by a certain minimum amount in order to experience independent fading on the different frequencies. In other words, the frequencies between which the signals are hopped must be sufficiently different from one another so that if the received signal is in a fading dip on one frequency it should not be in a fading dip on the other frequency. If the two frequencies are very close together it is more likely that the received signal will be weak due to fading at both frequencies. If, however, the two frequencies are separated from one another by a sufficiently large value then it is less likely that the received signal will be in fading dip on both frequencies. The separation between

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the two hopping frequencies which is sufficient to obtain independent fading one from the other is called the coherence bandwidth. If each of the two carrier frequencies used for hopping are within the coherence bandwidth, the signals received on each of the two frequencies will be highly correlated. If the carrier frequencies are separated by more than the coherence bandwidth then it is likely that the signals that are received on each of the two frequencies will be uncorrelated and thus, will not be in a fade condition at the same time. If the two frequencies are uncorrelated from one another the radio receiver will probably not experience a fade in the other frequency when one of them is in the fade condition.

When frequency hopping is being used in a TDMA radio signal, and the signal is being hopped across a different frequency during each of the several successive TDMA time slots, with each of the different carrier frequencies being reasonably far away from one another, then it is very likely that the signals received in each of the time slots are completely uncorrelated from one another. Moreover, if error correction coding and interleaving are used across the successive slots in which the signal is received, at least half of the bits received during two successive time slots will not be subjected to a fade condition, in which case the error correction coding and interleaving will do a satisfactory job of reconstructing the complete signal content despite the loss of content from one of the two slots.

In considering coherence bandwidth and correlation factors for frequency hopping applications, the coherence bandwidth is inversely proportional to the time delay spread of the transmission channel. Time delay spread occurs because of multipath propagation. The time difference is between the earliest and latest multipath

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signals, the main line-of-sight signal and the same signal delayed because one or more reflections creates a time span encompassing both the main signal and its principal echoes which contain most of the signal energy.

5 The coherence bandwidth of a signal is inversely proportional to the time delay spread of the signal. In the case of indoor implemented radio channels, the time delay spread is extremely small, for example, on the order of 50 to 100 nanoseconds. Thus, the coherence bandwidth
10 for such signals would be very large, for example, on the order of 10 megahertz. Thus, in order to get independent fading in a frequency hopping environment the frequency difference between two carrier signals would have to be on the order of 10 megahertz, far greater than the
15 bandwidth of most practical systems. It is an even greater problem to hop the carrier frequency of the signal over three or four separate frequencies requiring 30 to 40 megahertz of bandwidth.

20 One prior approach to the coherence bandwidth problem has been to create significant echoes of the broadcast signal by using a second transmitter. By delaying transmission on the second transmitter on the order of a symbol period, the second signal fades independently of the first as a function of the spacing of the second
25 antenna from the first. While the receiver can resolve these two signals a more complex receiver is required in order to deal with the signal echoes. The TDMA signal requires an equalizer while CDMA signals require a Rake combiner.

30 Another solution has been to use no delay between two separate transmitting antennas, but, rather, to vary the phase differences between them. This causes the fading at the receiver to vary with time. However, due to receiver mobility, the combined effect can cause the
35 fading to change so fast over time that the receiver

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processing circuitry cannot deal with it. For example, if the receiver has a channel tracker for coherent demodulations it may not function properly if the fading changes too quickly over time. Further, if the mobile is
5 designed to be stationary then a time varying phase may not be tracked by the receiver.

There is thus a need for some mechanism to allow the implementation of frequency hopping over a limited bandwidth to correct for flat fading channels in
10 environments such as radio systems implemented in an indoor environment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The system of the present invention solves some of
15 the foregoing problems by causing the fading to be different on carrier frequencies without the creation of significant signal echoes or significant time variations in the signal. In one embodiment of the invention, multiple transmit antennas broadcast the same signal with
20 different phases. In another embodiment, the signal received on multiple receive antennas are combined after changing the phase of one or both. In each case, the phase difference is changed as a function of carrier frequency. These phase changes can be implemented by
25 using fixed delays between antennas or by using a phase shifter which does not change during a burst but does change between bursts.

In another aspect, the system of the present invention includes the creation of delay spread in a
30 digital radio signal in order to decrease the coherence bandwidth of a signal so that frequency hopping may be implemented to correct for fading loss in an environment in which the mobile is relatively slow moving, for example, in an indoor environment.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the method and system of the present invention may be obtained by reference to the following Detailed Description of the preferred embodiment(s) that follow, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1A and 1B are diagrams illustrating the fading loss within a mobile radio environment as a function of distance over two different frequencies;

FIGURE 2 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a system constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURE 3 is another embodiment of a system constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention;

FIGURE 4 is a different embodiment of a system constructed in accordance with the present invention; and

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FIGURE 5 is a block diagram illustrating the

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introduction of phase delays into a baseband signal by rotation of the I and Q waveforms prior to modulation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 In the implementation of the system and method of the present invention a phase change is introduced into one of two identical radio signal paths and the degree of change is a function of the carrier frequency of the signal. One exemplary approach is to use a fixed delay
10 so that the phase change is equal to the carrier frequency (H_c) times the delay giving rise to a frequency dependant phase relationship between two different transmit antennas. This delay can be implemented, for example, with a surface acoustic wave (SAW) device. In contrast
15 to prior art systems the delay introduced is very small so that no resolvable echoes of the signal are generated. The delay is only enough to cause a phase change that is different for different hop frequencies.

 More specifically, in the creation of an "artificial
20 delay spread" in a signal being broadcast in a limited bandwidth environment in which the mobile is relatively slow moving or stationary, the system of the present invention employs two separate antennas. The signal to each of the two antennas is delayed relative to the other
25 so that the received signal appears to include both a main signal and a secondary signal. The extent of the phase difference between the two received signals is changed as a function of carrier frequency for hopped signals.

 In the environment of the invention shown in FIG. 2,
30 a transmitter 21 broadcasts a signal through an output lead 22 which is split into two paths 23 and 24. The signal traveling along path 23 passes through a phase modifier 25 to a broadcast antenna 26. A transmit filter can be used, for example, in order to introduce a selected
35 phase delay which varies with frequency. The other signal

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passes along line 24 to a different antenna 27. The phase modification is introduced to one of the signals to be on the order of a fraction of the symbol rate so that a minor delay spread is simulated between the respective signals broadcast from antennas 26 and 27. A receiver 31 receives the two phase shifted signals from antennas 26 and 27 at a single receive antenna 32. At the receive antenna 32 it appears as if a small amount of time delay spread has occurred, so that an equalizer or a Rake combiner is not necessary. Instead, the two signals either constructively add or cancel, depending on the position of the receiver and the carrier frequency.

Referring next to FIG. 3, there is shown an embodiment of the invention in which a signal transmitter 41 broadcasts over a single transmitting antenna 42. That signal is received by both a first antenna 43 and a second antenna 44. The output signal from the first antenna passes through a phase modifier 45 and thence into a combiner 46 in which it is combined with the unmodified signal from antenna 44. The combined signal is then introduced into the receiver 47 which processes the signals. The phase modified signals from antenna 44 and the unmodified signal from antenna 44 are combined in combiner 46 to simulate a delay spread between the two received signals which can be processed in the receiver 47. This simulated delay spread produces a smaller coherence bandwidth, which permits effective frequency hopping over a relatively modest bandwidth to combat fading of the signal in an enclosed environment.

The embodiment of the invention shown on FIG. 4 is similar to that of FIG. 3 in which a signal transmitter 41 connected to a transmitting antenna 42 transmits a signal which is received at a first receiving antenna 43 and a second receiving antenna 44. The signals are introduced into a receiver 47 and one of the two signals

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is processed independently of the other to introduce a delay 45 and again simulate delay spread. This reduces the coherence bandwidth of the two signals allowing frequency hopping over a reasonable frequency bandwidth to correct for certain fading losses.

5 The system of the present invention may be implemented in other ways. For example, instead of using a delay, some type of phase offset that varies from frequency hop to frequency hop could be employed. In a transmitter such a delay could be introduced at baseband by rotating the I and Q waveforms prior to modulation as illustrated in Fig. 5. Rotation by increments of 0, 90, 180 and 270° are preferable so that the rotated signals, I and Q are related to the original signals in the following simple ways:

$$\begin{aligned} I' &= I; Q' = Q(0^\circ). \\ I' &= -Q; Q' = I(90^\circ). \\ I' &= -I; Q' = -Q(180^\circ). \\ 20 \quad I' &= Q; Q' = -I(270^\circ). \end{aligned}$$

Which degree of rotation could be selected at random from hop to hop or be a function of the hop frequency control signal or follow some regular fixed pattern.

25 A similar technique can be used when there are two received signals. For example, the signals can be simply added together (0°), or the difference of the two signals can be taken as well as other means of modifying the signals. In U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/585,910 entitled "Diversity Receiving System", in the name of Paul W. Dent and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, selective diversity is used to select the best combination within a receiving system. However, in the present invention the actual most desirable combination does not matter. It is only the changing of the

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combination with successive frequency hops in either a random or a known way which enables the channel coding and interleaving to eliminate losses due to fading. Somewhat less complex circuitry is required to perform these functions in the present invention than in the selective diversity optimization system of the above-referenced Dent application.

In the embodiment of the present invention which employs multiple receiver antennas it is possible that the signal delay chosen can be on the order of a symbol period. In such case if the demodulator can handle echo signals, then a diversity advantage can be obtained without the need of frequency hopping. While it is difficult to delay one of the antenna signals by as much as a symbol period, this can be accomplished through receiver processing using filters with different group delay characteristics.

It should also be noted that while the above invention is described for radio systems, it also applicable to other wireless communications systems. Thus, as described above, antennas may refer to any device that transfers the signal either from the transmitter to a transmission medium or from the transmission medium to the receiver. Also, while frequency hopping occurs, the multiple access approach within a hop can be FDMA, TDMA, or CDMA.

Although a preferred embodiment of the method and apparatus of the present invention has been illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described in the foregoing detailed description, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiment(s) disclosed, but is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications and substitutions without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth and defined by the following claims.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, which method comprises:

5 transmitting the signal from a first transmitting antenna;

 transmitting the same signal from a second transmitting antenna after delaying the signal by a preselected time period;

10 processing in a receiver the received signals from the first and second transmitting antennas; and

 hopping the frequency of transmission from the first frequency to the second frequency.

15 2. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency within a relatively narrow system bandwidth as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

 the signal transmitted is a TDMA signal.

20

3. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 1 and which also includes the additional step of:

25 changing the time period of the delay as a function of the frequency of the signal to be transmitted.

30 4. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 1 wherein the delay between the signal transmitted from the first and second transmitting antennas is small relatively to a symbol period of the digital communication signal.

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5. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, which method comprises:

5 transmitting the signal from a transmitting antenna;

receiving the transmitted signal at a first antenna of a receiver;

receiving the same signal at a second receiving antenna of said receiver;

10 delaying the signal received by said second antenna by a preselected time period;

combining the signal received at said first antenna with the delayed signal received at said second antenna to produce a combined signal;

15 processing said combined signal in said receiver; and

hopping the frequency of transmission from the first frequency to the second frequency.

20 6. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the signal received is a TDMA signal.

25 7. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 5 and which also includes the additional step of:

30 changing the time period of the delay as a function of the frequency of the signal received.

8. A method of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency as set forth in claim 5 wherein the delay used

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between the signals received by the different antennas is small relatively to a symbol period of the signal.

5 9. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, comprising:

means for transmitting the signal from a first transmitting antenna;

10 means for transmitting the same signal from a second transmitting antenna after delaying the signal by a preselected time period;

means for processing in a receiver the received signals from the first and second transmitting antennas; and

15 means for hopping the frequency of transmission from the first frequency to the second frequency.

20 10. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

the signal transmitted is a TDMA signal.

25 11. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 9 and which also includes:

means for changing the time period of the delay as a function of the frequency of the signal to be transmitted.

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35 12. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency as set forth in claim 9 wherein the delay used between the signal transmitted from the different antennas is small relatively to a symbol period of the signal.

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13. A system for of enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, comprising:

5 means for transmitting the signal from a transmitting antenna;

means for receiving the transmitted signal at a first antenna of a receiver;

means for receiving the same signal at a second receiving antenna of said receiver;

10 means for delaying the signal received by said second antenna by a preselected time period;

means for combining the signal received at said first antenna with the delayed signal received at said second antenna to produce a combined signal;

15 means for processing said combined signal in said receiver; and

means for hopping the frequency of transmission from the first frequency to the second frequency.

20 14. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the signal received is a TDMA signal.

25 15. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency, as set forth in claim 13 and which also includes:

30 means for changing the time period of the delay as a function of the frequency of the signal received.

16. A system for enabling frequency hopping between a signal of a first frequency and a signal of a second frequency as set forth in claim 13 wherein the delay used

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between the signals received by the different antennas is small relatively to a symbol period of the signal.

17. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication
5 system, a transmitter comprising:

means for generating a slow frequency hopped
digital communication signal; and

means for transmitting said signal on a
plurality of different antennas with each signal being
10 transmitted from each antenna separated from the other
signals by phase differences that change as a function of
hop frequency.

18. A slow frequency hopped digital communication
15 system as set forth in claim 17 wherein the phase change
between the signals to be broadcast from the different
antennas is made at baseband and the signal to be
broadcast is passed through a plurality of separate
transmit chains.

20 19. A slow frequency hopped digital communication
system as set forth in claim 18 wherein said phase delay
is introduced into the signal to be transmitted as a phase
offset by rotation of the I and/or Q waveforms of the
25 original signal prior to modulation.

20. A slow frequency hopped digital communication
system as set forth in claim 17 wherein said phase delay
is introduced into the signal to be transmitted by means
30 of a surface acoustic wave (SAW) device.

21. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication
system, a receiver comprising:

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means for receiving a slow frequency hopped digital communication signal on a plurality of different antennas; and

5 means for introducing phase differences that change as a function of hop frequency into the signal received from respective ones of the different antennas;

means for processing said phase separated signals to enhance the effective coherence bandwidth of the frequency hopped signals.

10

22. A slow frequency hopped digital communication system as set forth in claim 21 wherein the phase differences used between the signal received by the different antennas are small relatively to a symbol period
15 of the digital communication signal.

23. A slow frequency hopped digital communication system as set forth in claim 21 wherein said phase delay is introduced into the received signal by means of a surface acoustic wave (SAW) device.
20

24. In a slow frequency hop digital communication system receiver, the combination comprising:

25 a plurality of antennas to produce a plurality of received signals;

means for offsetting the phase of at least one of said received signals to produce at least one phase offset signal;

30 means for combining said received signals and said phase offset signals to produce a composite received signal; and

means for detecting information symbols using said composite received signal.

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25. A slow frequency hopped digital communication receiver as set forth in claim 24 wherein the phase differences used between the received signal and the at least one phase offset signal are small relatively to a
5 symbol period of the digital communication signal.

26. A slow frequency hopped digital communication system as set forth in claim 24 wherein said phase offset is introduced into the received signal by means of a
10 surface acoustic wave (SAW) device.

27. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system, the method which comprises:

generating a slow frequency hopped digital
15 communication signal; and

transmitting said signal on a plurality of different antennas with each signal being transmitted from each antenna separated from the other signals by phase offsets that change as a function of hop frequency.
20

28. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 27 wherein the phase differences used between the signal transmitted from the different antennas are small relatively to a symbol period
25 of the digital communication signal.

29. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 27 which includes the additional steps of:

30 making the phase offsets between the signals to be broadcast from the different antennas at baseband; and
passing the signal to be broadcast through a plurality of separate transmit chains.

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30. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 29 wherein said phase offsets are introduced into the signal to be transmitted by rotation of the I and/or Q waveforms of the signal prior to modulation.

31. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 27 wherein said phase offsets are introduced into the signal to be transmitted by means of a surface acoustic wave (SAW) device.

32. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method which comprises:

- receiving a slow frequency hopped digital communication signal on a plurality of different antennas;
- introducing a phase offset that changes as a function of hop frequency into the signal received from respective ones of the different antennas; and
- processing said phase separated signals to enhance the effective coherence bandwidth of the frequency hopped signals.

33. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 32 wherein the phase offset used between the signal received by the different antennas is small relatively to a symbol period of the digital communication signal.

34. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 32 wherein said phase offset is introduced into the received signal by means of a surface acoustic wave (SAW) device.

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35. In a slow frequency hop digital communication system receiver having a plurality of antennas to produce a plurality of received signals, the method comprising:

5 offsetting the phase of at least one of said
received signals to produce at least one offset signal;
 combining said received signals and said offset
signals to produce a composite received signal; and
 detecting information symbols using said
composite received signal.

10

36. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication receiver the method set forth in claim 35 wherein the phase differences used between the received signal and the at least one delayed signal are small relatively to
15 a symbol period of the digital communication signal.

37. In a slow frequency hopped digital communication system the method set forth in claim 35 wherein said phase offset is introduced into the received signal by means of
20 a surface acoustic wave (SAW) device.

FIG.1A

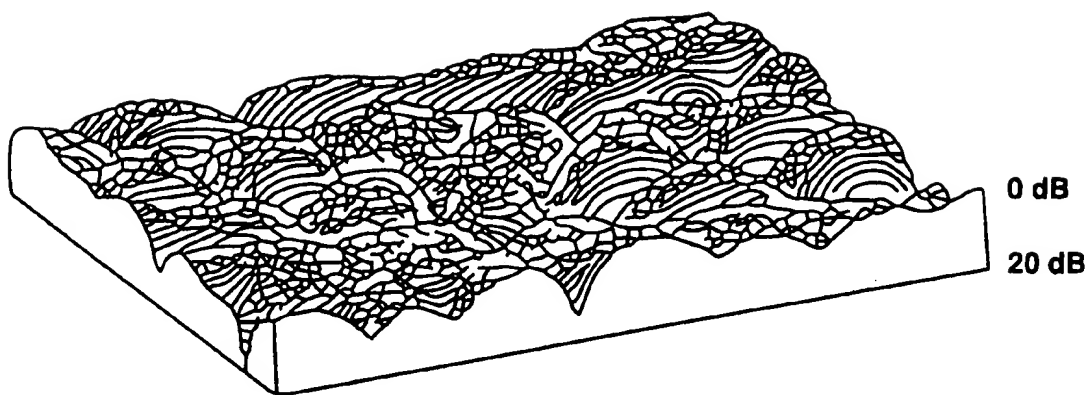


FIG.1B

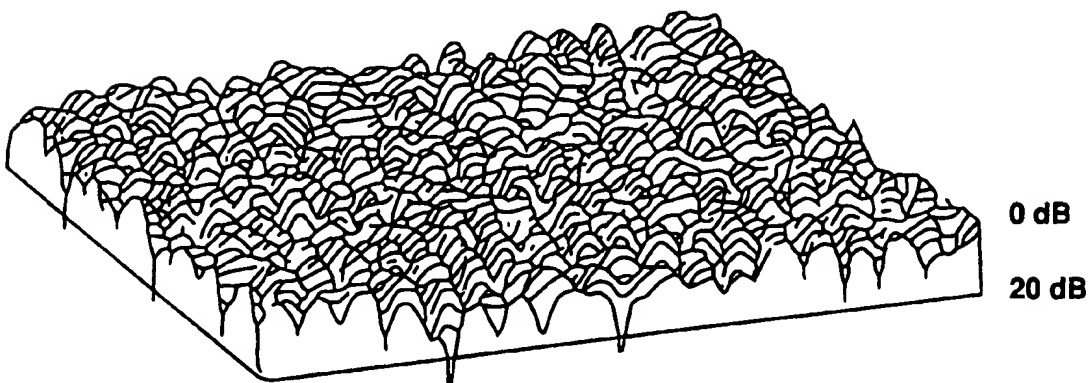


FIG.2

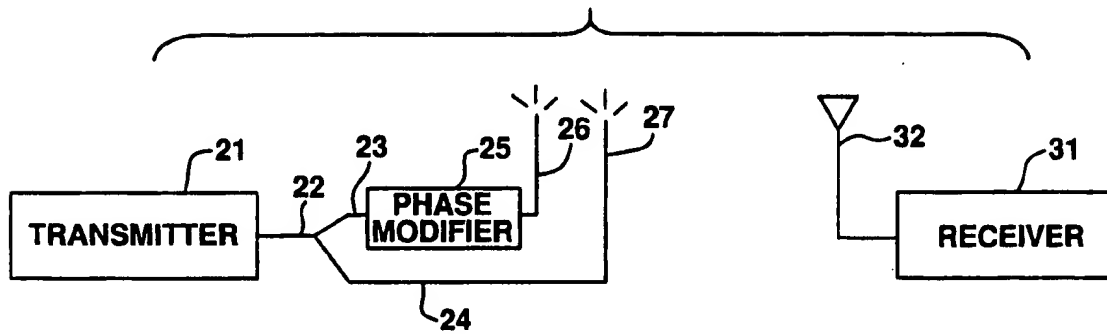


FIG.3

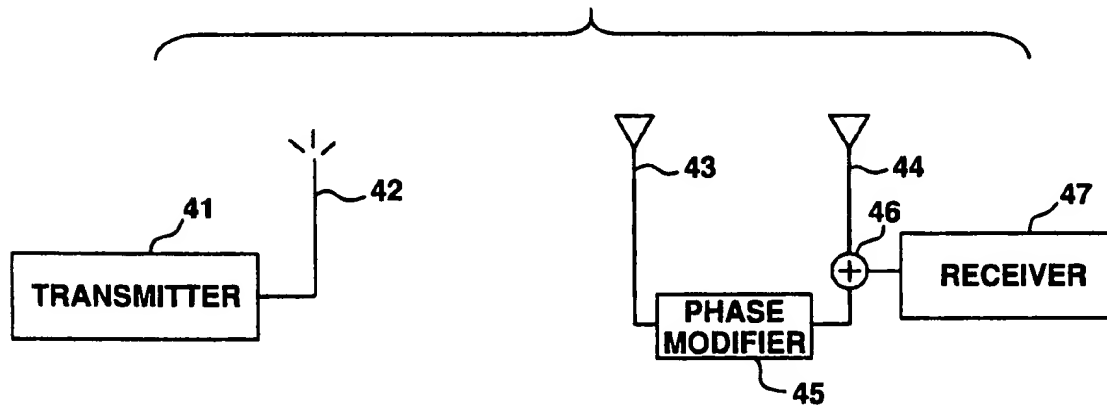


FIG.4

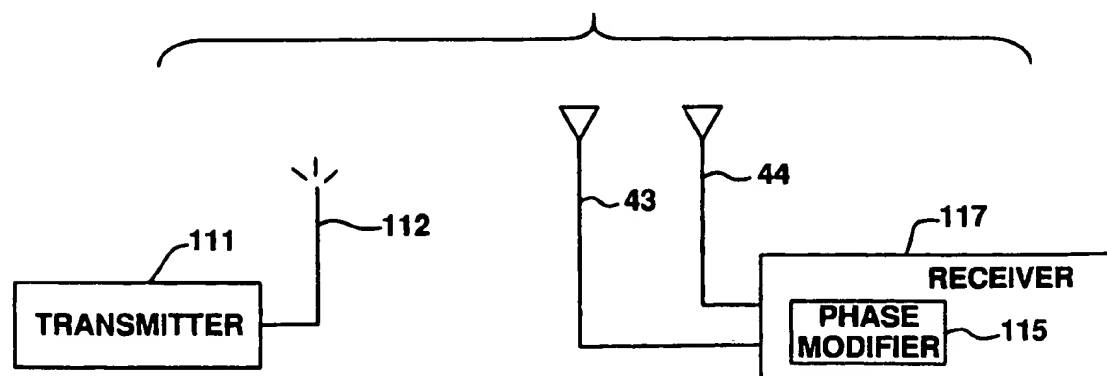


FIG.5

